WHAT IS CLAIMED IS;

1. A drip stopping system for absorbing liquid which runs downwardly on the exterior surface of a bottle following the pouring of such liquid from the bottle, the bottle having a base portion, a neck portion integrally merged at one end with the base portion, and defining at the other end an opening through which such liquid may be placed within and poured from, said system comprising, in combination:

a) a flexible cord having first and second ends and a liquid-absorbing outer surface;

b) at least one retaining member defining a pair of laterally adjacent passageways with parallel axes;

c) said cord passing through, in frictional contact with, each of said passageways with both of said first and second ends on one side and a closed loop of said cord on the other side of said retaining member; and

d) said closed loop passing around and substantially surrounding said neck portion of said bottle in contacting relation with said exterior surface thereof, whereby any liquid moving down said exterior surface, following pouring of liquid from said bottle and returning said bottle to an upright position, is absorbed by said cord.

2. The drip stopping system of claim 1 wherein said cord and said passageways have circular cross sections of substantially equal diameters, whereby said cord is frictionally engaged by said passageways.

3. The drip stopping system of claim 1 and further including first and second weight members affixed to said first and second ends, respectively, said weight members having a density greater than the mass of said cord.

4. The drip stopping system of claim 3 wherein said weight members comprise spherical, metallic members.

5. The drip stopping system of claim 3 wherein said retaining member rests upon said neck portion and said first and second weight members rest upon said base portion.

6. The drip stopping system of claim 1 wherein the portions of said cord on the opposite side of said retaining member from said closed loop are passed around said neck portion, crossed over one another, and passed back to the same side of the bottle as said retaining member.

7. The drip stopping system of claim 6 wherein the portions of said cord which are passed back to the same side of the bottle as said retaining member are tied to one another, forming a knot in said cord.

8. The drip stopping system of claim 7 wherein said base portion is of greater diameter than said neck portion and said neck and base portions are integrally merged through an intermediate portion of varying diameter through an axial length of said bottle, and wherein said passageways contact said neck portion.

9. The drip stopping system of claim 8 wherein said knot rests upon said intermediate portion.

10. The drip stopping system of claim 6 wherein the portions of said cord which are passed back to the same side of the bottle as said retaining member are passed through the parallel passageways of a second retaining member.

11. The method of absorbing liquid which has run down the exterior of a bottle following pouring of a portion of the liquid from the bottle and return of the bottle to an upright position, said bottle having integrally joined base and neck portions, said method comprising:

a) forming a length of flexible cord of liquid-absorbing material extending between first and second ends;

b) providing a first retaining member having a base with forward and reverse sides and structure defining first and second, laterally spaced passageways having parallel axes affixed to said reverse side;

c) passing said first and second ends through said first and second passageways, respectively, to form a closed loop of said cord on one side of said retaining member and portions of said cord extending from said first retaining member to said first and second ends on the other side;

d) passing said closed loop around said neck portion of said bottle to substantially surround said neck portion; and

e) moving said retaining member upon said cord to essentially remove slack from said closed loop with said portions of said cord extending from said first retaining member to said first and second ends extending down the outside of said base portion of said bottle.

12. The method of claim 11 and further including affixing first and second weight members to said first and second ends, respectively, following passing of said ends through said first and second passageways.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said weight members comprise first and second spherical balls crimped to said first and second ends, respectively.

14. The method of claim 11 and further comprising the step of passing the portions of said cord extending from said first retaining member on the side thereof opposite said closed loop around said bottle from opposite sides thereof, crossing said portions over one another and passing them back to the same side of said bottle as said first retaining member.

15. The method of claim 14 and further comprising the step of tying said portions of said cord which are passed back to the same side of said bottle as said first retaining member to one another to form a knot in said cord directly below said first retaining member, with portions of said cord extending from said knot down the outside of said base portion of said bottle.

16. The method of claim 14 and further comprising the step of passing said first and second ends of said cord through the laterally spaced passageways of a second retaining member, substantially identical first retaining member.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said second retaining member is positioned substantially directly below said first retaining member with the portions of said cord between said second retaining member and said first and second ends extending down said base portion of said bottle in the upright condition of said bottle.